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SUBJECT: UNSC DRC SANCTIONS CONSULTATIONS

¶1. USUN may draw from the points in para 3 below during the consultations on 25 November, regarding the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) sanctions regime, which includes an arms embargo and an asset freeze and travel ban for individuals and entities designated by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo ("the DRC Sanctions Committee" - www.un.org/sc/committees/1533/index.shtml).

¶2. KEY OBJECTIVE: Express U.S. support for extending the mandate of the DRC Sanctions Committee and its Group of Experts for one year.

¶3.

-- The United States thanks the Chair of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Sanctions Committee and the Group of Experts (GOE) for its final report.

-- The DRC sanctions regime was created to address threats to peace and security posed by the violence in eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including: the entry of arms and other military materiel into the DRC; violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including sexual violence against women and girls; the recruitment and use of children in armed groups; displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians; and illegal exploitation of the natural resources and other sources of wealth of the DRC. It is troubling that these problems persist five years after the establishment of the sanctions regime.

-- The Council has demanded that all UN Member States cooperate fully with the GOE, and we encourage States to do so to the best of their ability as permitted by their domestic legal frameworks. It is especially important that the governments in the Great Lakes region, in particular the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, cooperate with the GOE.

-- The Group of Experts can only be effective if Member States respect the Group's mandate as set forth by the Security Council. We are carefully studying the GOE's final report and recommendations to find ways to make the sanctions more effective in assisting the pursuit of peace and security in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region.

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